

# Malawi

**COUNTRY:**  
Malawi

**USAID FUNDING PERIOD:**  
September 1997-December 2001

**PROJECT:**  
Community-Based Options for Protection and Empowerment II (COPE II)

**USAID AMOUNT:**  
\$1,619,459

**IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION:**  
Save the Children/US

## PURPOSE

Community-based Options for Protection and Empowerment II (COPE II) works with local residents to form or reform and mobilize district, subdistrict, and village AIDS committees. Through these structures, the project facilitates sustainable community action to prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS. Specific objectives for COPE II include:

- Strengthening community capacities to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS in 20 catchment areas of four districts in Malawi;
- Identifying, assisting, and protecting orphans and other vulnerable children;
- Increasing economic opportunities and resources available to especially vulnerable households;
- Strengthening the capacity of government and community organizations to lead and sustain effective responses to meet the needs of HIV/AIDS-affected children and families; and
- Advocating policy change at national, district, and local levels.

Low-cost, multisectoral efforts being undertaken by communities affected by HIV/AIDS include home-based care, fundraising to cover school fees and increase food security, psychosocial support, and community-wide education on HIV/AIDS prevention.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Seedlings and other planting materials were delivered to more than 100 village AIDS committees to establish nurseries;

- 208 village AIDS committees were mobilized by 16 community action committees, 131 of which are registering orphans and other vulnerable children;
- 12,583 orphans and other vulnerable children in four districts are receiving care and support via village AIDS committees;
- 1,450 children affected by AIDS received clothing, food donations, and assistance in 1999, with school fees paid through village AIDS committees;
- 29.8 hectares of communal vegetable gardens were established, benefiting more than 6,000 vulnerable households per year;
- 4,980 youth are participating in 249 youth clubs; and
- Nearly \$20,000 was raised by district AIDS coordinating committees and community action committees through local fundraising.

## PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 2001

- Increase psychosocial support to families and children affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Improve prevention activities, especially for the youth;
- Increase voluntary counseling and testing services, especially at the community level;
- Provide technical assistance other organizations to enable them to replicate/introduce COPE II in other districts to increase coverage of families and children affected by HIV/AIDS;

- Strengthen the capacity of COPE II staff to help expand and replicate the model both nationally and internationally;
- Increase documentation of the COPE II program and dissemination of lessons learned;
- Provide small grants for community-based income generating activities to benefit orphans and vulnerable children, youth, and caregivers of orphans; and
- Diversify funding sources for COPE II through advocacy and fundraising.

#### PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- Home-based care training module;
- Handbook on community mobilization;
- COPE II model of care and support for children and families affected by AIDS; and
- Guidelines on establishing and maintaining orphan care committees.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The project can provide expertise for other orphans and vulnerable children projects in the following areas:

- Training and facilitation workshops;
- Community mobilization;

- Home-based care, linking care and prevention;
- Resource mobilization at the community level;
- Networking and collaborating with other private volunteer organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and community-based organizations; and
- Mentoring of other private volunteer organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and community-based organizations.

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**COUNTRY:**  
Malawi

**USAID FUNDING PERIOD:**  
February 2000–September 2004

**PROJECT:**  
Safety Net

**USAID AMOUNT:**  
\$775,000, plus Title II Commodities

**IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION:**  
Catholic Relief Services with Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Project Hope, and International Eye Foundation

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**PURPOSE**

Safety Net provides food rations to households with persons living with HIV/AIDS and families caring for orphans and other vulnerable children. Current geographic coverage includes 40 villages in Phalombe and 40 villages in the Chikwawa district. Orphan Care Committees, Agriculture Development Facilitators (ADF) and Community Growth Monetization Volunteers help to identify and monitor the nutrition status of households. The presence and role of the field staff are critical to ensuring a smooth process of registering households eligible for food assistance. The overall goal is to improve the safety net for destitute children. The objectives are to:

- Increase adoption of childcare practices by orphan guardians/families;
- Increase community participation in providing for destitute children and vulnerable groups; and
- Increase self reliance of older orphans.

**PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS**

- Indicators; and
- Selection criteria for beneficiaries.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The project can provide guidance for the following:

- Linking safety net beneficiaries to agriculture and micro-finance activities.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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